

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated July 15, 2005, the Examiner objected to the specification due to informalities. The specification has been amended accordingly. In addition, in the Office Action dated July 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-15, 17-19, 23-25, 43-47, 51-56 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,889,304 to Perego *et al.* The Examiner also rejected claims 28-30, 32-34 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0227798 and further in view of Perego *et al.*

Although applicants do not agree that any of the rejected claims are anticipated by or obvious over the cited references, applicants are amending the claims to place them in condition for early allowance of this application. Specifically, claim 1 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 4, claim 13 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 16, claim 28 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 31, claim 43 is being amended to incorporate limitations like those found in allowable claims 4 and 16, and claim 51 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 61. Applicant is also canceling a number of claims that are being made redundant by these amendments. Applicant is also adding new claims 62-74. Independent claim 62 is a combination of claim 1 and a claim that is generic to allowable claims 8-10, independent claim 66 is a combination of claim 13 and a claim that is generic to allowable claims 20-22, independent claim 70 is a combination of claim 28 and a claim that is generic to allowable claims 35-37, independent claim 73 is a combination of claim 28 and allowable claim 41, and independent claim 74 is a combination of claim 51 and a claim that is generic to allowable claims 57-59.

All of the claims remaining in the application, namely claims 1, 2, 5-14, 17-29, 32-43, 46-51, 55-59 and 62-74, are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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- Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)
- Supp. Information Disclosure Statement
- PTO-1449
- Cited References (27)
- Related Application (2)

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